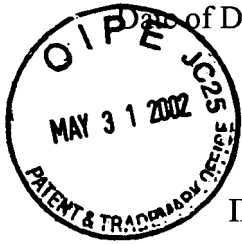


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Date of Deposit: May 31, 2002

Our Case No. 11400-246  
Accenture I.D. 00019-00/US

4/28/02  
12/B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )

George V. Guyan et al. )

Serial No. 09/305,331 )

Filing Date: May 4, 1999 )

For: METHOD AND ARTICLE OF )  
MANUFACTURE FOR )  
PROVIDING A COMPONENT BASED )  
INTERFACE TO HANDLE )  
TASKS DURING CLAIM PROCESSING )

) Examiner: D. Robertson

) Group Art Unit: 2163

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JUN 11 2002

Technology Center 2100

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2002

Dear Sir:

GROUP 3600

In response to the Office Action dated December 3, 2001, Applicants have timely filed this Preliminary Amendment with a Continuing Prosecution Application (CPA) and the appropriate Petition and Fee for Extension of Time. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections and grant allowance of this Application in view of the following remarks and new claims.

Please amend this application as follows: